

# Legislative Issue Brief – Federal Assistance in funding a wood waste and bio-solids gasification and green energy facility at EcoComplex



## **Catawba County Board of Commissioner's Legislative Goal**

**Support Federal assistance in funding of a wood waste and bio-solids gasification and green energy facility**

### **Background**

Catawba County is requesting Federal funding to build a wood waste and bio-solids gasification and green energy facility. The request is for \$5 million in State and Tribal Assistance Grant funding and \$5 in Department of Energy funding. Currently, Catawba County is responsible for handling wood waste from a major lumber mill and a pallet manufacturer at its Eco-Complex, in addition to being responsible for disposing/marketing wastewater treatment bio-solids dried at an adjacent facility. Innovative technology will address both responsibilities in a cost-effective manner that generates more than 2.5 Megawatts (MW) of "green energy" electricity. This project will provide critical waste handling and green energy production capabilities that will attract more industry to the Eco-Complex, generating new jobs for the economically depressed Catawba County region.

The Wood Waste and Bio-solids Gasification and Green Energy Production Facility will prototype innovative technologies that solve wood waste and bio-solids handling problems with the additional benefit of generating significant amounts of "green energy". This facility, the first-of-its-kind in the U.S., using technology proven in Canadian facilities, will have broad national applicability by demonstrating cost-effective solutions to a problem faced by all municipalities. By generating large quantities of "green energy", this facility will help to address climate change and dependency on foreign sources of energy. Operation costs of this facility will be funded by "green energy" sales, user fees charged to wood waste generators, and customers of the bio-solids drying facility.

Federal funding will escalate the completion of this project, increasing the benefits for the citizens of Catawba County and surrounding areas. To date, the County has invested approximately \$50,000 to determine that the project is technologically and financially viable.

### **Catawba County Legislative Contact**

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